
November 20, 2013 U District Neighborhood Greenway Open House

Meeting Summary

**Seattle Department of
Transportation**

Contents

Overview	1
Comment Sheets, Flip Charts and Emails Transcribed	1
Meeting Demographics	3

Overview

On November 20, the Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT) hosted an open house to talk with community members about planning and constructing a neighborhood greenway in the U District. The meeting was held at the University Christian Church. Display boards and a PowerPoint presentation explained existing traffic speeds, volumes and collisions for streets in the neighborhood; what neighborhood greenways are; and described the planned installation of a traffic signal at 12th Avenue NE and NE 50th Street. Also in attendance was staff from other neighborhood projects including representatives from the University of Washington Maple and Terry Hall Construction Project, Sound Transit Northgate Link Light Rail Station Construction Project and Department of Planning and Design U District Urban Design Framework Effort/Green Streets.

Meeting notification included a flier mailed 4,057 residents between NE Ravenna Boulevard to the north, Lincoln Way on the south, Roosevelt Way NE on the west and University Way NE on the east. Meeting dates were also distributed via the University of Washington, Northeast Seattle Department of Neighborhoods Coordinator, Seattle Neighborhood Greenways and the Seattle Bike Blog. About 45 people attended the open house.

Comment

Below is a summary of comment sheets, flip chart notes and emails received.

12th Ave NE

- People bike here
- Please complete the 12th Ave NE neighborhood greenway
- 100 percent of respondents walk on 12th Ave NE, and 75 percent bike on 12th Ave NE

NE 50th St and 12th Ave NE

- Crossing is challenging
- Issues include: inadequate lighting, poor sight lines, speeding traffic (consider restricting turns from 50th onto 12th, but this could divert traffic to the alley)
- People would prefer safer pedestrian crossings at this intersection
- Speeding is an issue on NE 50th St
- Residents report having seen numerous collisions at this intersection
- Community, kids groups, customers from the YMCA have to run across NE 50th St, or go down the hill and back up the hill to cross 50th St safely.
- The lack of street lights makes visibility difficult, especially in the winter
- People are currently crossing here and won't stop crossing here even though they fear for safety.

Campus Parkway and 12th Ave NE

- Improve Campus Parkway and 12th Ave crossing with diverters, raised crosswalks, full median island, etc.

Improve Access

- Consider mid-block crossing near low income housing north of 45th St a rehabilitation center
- Sidewalks are narrow on 12th Ave NE between NE 50th St and 52nd St
- 52nd St is a pedestrian east-to-west connection, but Roosevelt is difficult to cross
- 42nd is a great east-west connection to the UW and good entry point to campus at 15th Ave. Please formalize and improve. There is also an existing signal at Roosevelt and 42nd
- Facilitate access to transit, especially the future Link Light Rail Station at Brooklyn Ave NE and NE 43rd St.
- Build bike facilities—either protected bike lanes, bike lanes or neighborhood greenway—on Brooklyn, 15th and 17th.
- Don't remove on-street parking

Maintain Streets and Sidewalks

- Obstructions, including dumpsters, light poles, trees, etc., restrict sidewalk width along Roosevelt, 11th, 12th and 15th
- There is a lot of garbage cans on streets
- Clean fallen leaves in the fall
- Enforce sidewalk maintenance
- Repave streets
- Improve the sidewalks on 12th Ave NE. There are drop-offs on the sidewalk.

Connect

- Connect the greenway to Eastlake. Currently, it's challenging to cross Roosevelt and 11th
- Connect greenway to Burke-Gilman Trail—need more than a tunnel on a stairway
- Connect to downtown

Educate

- Educate motorists and bicyclists about empathy
- Consider mailing "Best Practices" regarding maintenance concerns every year to residences
- Regulate pedestrian jaywalking
- Regulate bicyclists, regarding stop signs, traffic signals and using lights at night

Improve Safety

- A new crosswalk would help UW Tower
- Speeding bicyclists create pedestrian conflicts
- Pulling out of the alley between 11th and 12th at 50th is dangerous. Consider making the alley one-way north out of 50th

Calm Traffic

- Consider installing diverters (like in Capitol Hill) to reduce traffic

- Reduce speeds some bicyclists travel on 12th Ave NE
- Consider chicanes instead of speed humps, which are quite disruptive to bicyclists. At a minimum, install pass-through for bikes on speed humps
- Speeding bicyclists create pedestrian conflicts
- Riding over speed humps on a cargo bike is not desirable. Consider bollards or chicanes to calm traffic, or speed hump pass-thru adequate for panniers or a kid trailer

Meeting Demographics

The Full Inclusion Sign-in Sheet was used to help measure how inclusive SDOT's outreach for the Open House was. Below are the results.

- 73% of attendees signed the voluntary Inclusion Sign-in Sheet

Of those that signed the Inclusion Sign-in Sheet:

- 76% identified as white
- 97% primary language is English
- 58% were male and 42% female
- The largest age group in attendance was 30-50 years old (55%)
- 70% own their home

Demographics based on 2010 census data for the 98105 zip code show that about 72 percent are white with the next highest population being Asian. Approximately 50 percent are male and 50 percent are female; and about 3 percent own their home.